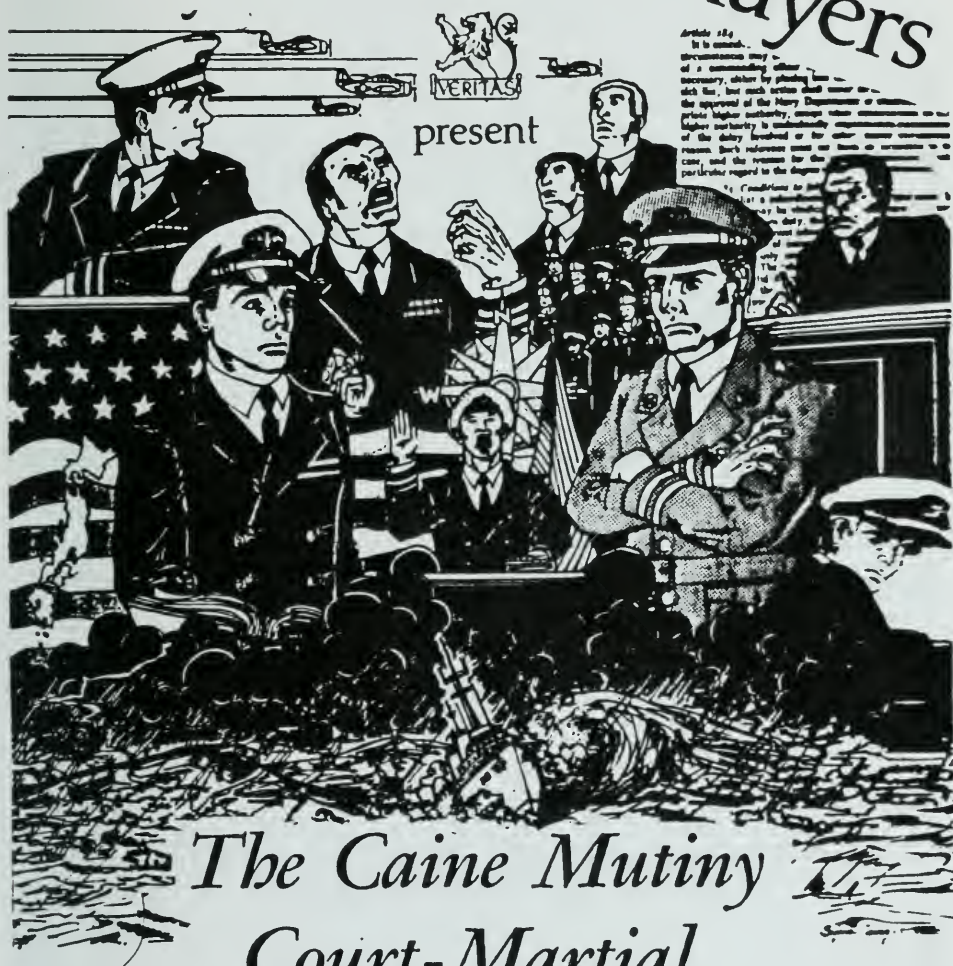


Selwyn House Senior Players



By Herman Wouk



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The Caine Mutiny Court Martial

**A Drama in Two Acts
by
Herman Wouk**

Adapted by Herman Wouk himself from The Caine Mutiny, his Pulitzer Prize novel which critics hailed as “the best sea story” and “the best World War II novel,” this play portrays the court martial proceedings against a young, upright lieutenant who relieved his captain of command in the midst of a harrowing typhoon, on the grounds that the captain was psychopathic—or at least too stunned to act—in an emergency that was sending the ship and its crew to destruction. The odds and naval tradition are against the lieutenant; and in a court martial, the defence would normally not attempt to win the case by impugning the reputation of a commanding officer. As the witnesses and experts, some serious, some unwittingly comic, cross the scene of the trial, the weakness in the character of the captain is slowly revealed in a devastating picture of disintegration.

A famous movie version of the novel stars Humphrey Bogart as Captain Queeg. The original Broadway production of this play was directed by Charles Laughton and starred Henry Fonda as Lt. Greenwald, the defence attorney.

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial

NOTE

(To be inserted in all programs)

The Caine Mutiny Court Martial is purely imaginary. No ship named U.S.S. Caine ever existed. The records show no instance of a U.S. Navy captain relieved at sea under Articles 184-186. The fictitious figure of the deceased captain was derived from a study of psychoneurotic case histories, and is not a portrait of a real military person or a type; this statement is made because of the existing tendency to seek lampoons of living people in imaginary stories. The author served under two captains of the regular Navy aboard destroyers-minesweepers, both of whom were decorated for valor. One technical note: court-martial regulations have been extensively revised since the Second World War. This trial takes place according to instructions then in force. Certain minor omissions have been made for the purposes of brevity; otherwise, the play strictly follows procedures stipulated in Naval Courts and Boards.

From the Navy Regulations

Article 184. Unusual circumstances.

It is conceivable that most unusual and extraordinary circumstances may arise in which the relief from duty of a commanding officer by a subordinate becomes necessary, either by placing him under arrest or on the sick list; but such action shall never be taken without the approval of the Navy Department or other appropriate higher authority, except when reference to such higher authority is undoubtedly impractical because of the delay involved or for other clearly obvious reason. Such reference must set forth all fact in the case and the reasons for the recommendation, with particular regard to the degree of urgency involved.

Article 185. Conditions to fulfill.

In order that a subordinate officer, acting upon his own initiative, may be vindicated for relieving a commanding officer from duty, the situation must be obvious and clear, and must be of the single conclusion that the retention of command by such commanding officer will seriously and irretrievably prejudice the public interests. The subordinate must be next in lawful succession to command; must be unable to refer the matter to a common superior for one of the reasons set down in Article 184; must

be certain that the prejudicial actions of his commanding officer are not caused by secret instructions unknown to the subordinate; must have given the matter such careful consideration, and must have made such exhaustive investigation of all the circumstances, as may be practical; and finally must be thoroughly convinced that the conclusion to relieve his commanding officer is one which a reasonable, prudent, and experienced officer would regard as a necessary consequence from the facts thus determined to exist.

Article 186. Responsibility.

Intelligently fearless initiative is an important trait of military character, and it is not the purpose to discourage its employment in cases of this nature. However, as an action of relieving a superior from command involves most serious possibilities, a decision so to do or so to recommend should be based upon facts established by substantial evidence, and upon the official views of others in a position to form valuable opinions, particularly of a technical character. An officer relieving his commanding officer or recommending such action together with all others who so counsel, must bear the legitimate responsibility for, and must be prepared to justify, such action.

Synopsis

ACT ONE: The Prosecution

ACT TWO: The Defense

The time of the play is February 1945. The scene is the General Court-Martial Room of the Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco. At the end of Act Two, the scene shifts to a banquet room in the Hotel Fairmont, San Francisco.

The set design alters slightly the one specified by Mr. Wouk for his play.

The Cast

Lieutenant Barney Greenwald

Jared Tobman

Lieutenant Stephen Maryk

Robbie Johnston

Lt. Commander John Challee

Doug Naudie

Captain Blakely

Matthew Stevenson

Lt. Commander Philip Francis Queeg

Blake Ferger

Lieutenant Thomas Keefer

Heath Slawner

Signalman 3rd Class Junius Urban

Michael Verchere

Lieutenant Willis Seward Keith

Danny Yelin

Captain Randolph Southard

Christian Campeau

Dr. Forrest Lundeen

Warren Valdmanis

Dr. Bird

Myles Hainsworth

Stenographer

Brian Thompson

Orderly

John Feilding

Court Members

**Anthony Brown
Eugene Dimitriou
Sean Gilman
Eric Jabal
David James
Kevin O'Brien**

Production Staff

Director	Dr. Byron Harker
Technical Producer	Mr. Marc Krushelnyski
Stage Manager	Marc Vinh
Assistant Stage Manager	Jason Tsadilas
Set Construction	Mr. Marc Krushelnyski
	Nicholas Audet
	Anthony Brown
	Russell Grant
	David James
	Joel Scott
	Jared Tobman
Set Painting	David James
	Tom Osborne
	Conor Sampson
Stage Crew	Nicholas Audet
	Stephen Barkman
	Russell Grant
	Joel Scott
Sound and Lights	Stuart Webster
	Conor Sampson
Video	John Mulder
	Neville Quinlan
Makeup	Miss Helaine Tecks
	Mrs. Judy Clark
	Mrs. Mary Ferger
	Ms. Margaret Ferguson
	Mrs. Virginia Ferguson
	Ms. Carol Manning
	Mrs. Deborah Schatia
Costume Master	Mr. George Ferger
Costumes	Le Costumier du Roy
Properties	John Feilding
Publicity, Tickets and House Management	Justin Vineberg, Head
	Eric Dilda
	William Dodge
	Russell Grant
	David James
	Ferhan Memon
Posters and Program Cover	Sywa Sung

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. George Ferger**, who supplied us with the gigantic cake in Act Two, who are working on the production every night, whose son Blake is the focal character in the play, and who have been generous supporters these last three years.

Thanks to **Sywa Sung** ('87), who designed our posters and program covers, and who did set paintings, posters and tickets for two previous productions. He is an Old Boy with school spirit.

Special Thanks to **Mrs. Susan Strickland** for her continuing advice and interest. Mrs. Strickland also contributed to Three Musketeers, Macbeth and Julius Caesar.

Special Thanks to **Ms. Carol Manning** for her generous help, support and steady supply of new, young actors.

Very Special Thanks to the **Verchere** family for their long-continued and generous support.

Special Thanks and Affection to **Mrs. Christine Krushelnyski** for duplicating our posters and programs and for her continuing advice and friendship.

Thanks to **Mrs. L. Tobman** for searching out the costumes, and for providing enthusiastic support—along with the star of the show.

Acknowledgements

Great Affection and Gratitude to Mr. Marc Krushelnyski for all his work and support. We couldn't do it without you, Marc.

Thanks to Mr. Pierre Beauchamp and his staff for giving up their space to us and for supporting us generously throughout the years.

We are **grateful to Mr. William Mitchell, Mr. Alain Weber, and Mr. Rob Wearing** for their support and encouragement.

Notes



